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# Fees proposed to fund transit routes

**REPORT:** <sup>1174</sup> The regional planning agency will seek public comments on its recommendations.

Regional planners agreed Oct. 2 to release a preliminary transportation plan for Southern California that recommends development fees in San Bernardino County, higher gas taxes and tolls to help pay for new roads and rail lines.

The Southern California Association of Governments must adopt a plan by April 2004 to comply with federal rules.

Transportation projects must be included in the plan to be eligible for federal funding.

The 2004 Regional Transportation Plan outlines transportation needs through 2030 and will be released later this month.

The association will launch a four-month effort to obtain public comment on the plan later

this month, spokesman Jeff Lustgarten said by phone.

Public workshops and at least one public hearing will be scheduled in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, he said.

Copies of the plan also will be available in some public libraries and on SCAG's Web site, [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).

SCAG is the metropolitan planning agency for Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura and Imperial counties.

The association forecasts growth in the six-county area and develops plans for transportation and housing.

Anticipating that the region will grow by 6 million people by 2030, planners said the region needs more improvements to freeways, public transit, rail lines and airports than it can afford.

State and federal funding will provide only a quarter of what's needed to support a growing

population that has become increasingly dependent on cars, planners said in a preliminary report.

The plan proposes to raise

regional gas taxes by 10 cents a gallon after 2010, charge tolls for trucks and cars that use new freeway lanes, and assess a fee for cargo containers to

fund improvements to rail lines.

The proposed fees, taxes and tolls would raise about \$81 billion by 2030.